

BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING
Planning Session
March 2, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin and President Moore. Also present were Mayor John Thompson and Patricia McGrail, Esquire from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, L.L.C. and Borough Solicitor. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager was absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, President Moore requested a moment of silence be observed to remember all victims of violent crime.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Wilkinsburg Planning Commission Annual Report – Patrick Shattuck, Chairperson

Mr. Shattuck, Chairperson of the Wilkinsburg Planning Commission, advised Council of the requirement in the PA Municipalities Planning Code to provide an annual report of the Commission's activities for the prior year by March 1. Mr. Shattuck provided Council members with a report of the Commission's 2010 activities. The Planning Commission was very active in 2010, particularly with the review of the Comprehensive Plan adopted by Council on September 15, 2010. In 2011, the Commission hopes to be working on by-laws and update to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Shattuck also advised that it is the recommendation of the Commission to increase the membership on the Commission to nine members.

Wood Street Initiative Plan – Tamara Dudukovich of the Community Builders

Mr. Shattuck introduced Tamara Dudukovich of The Community Builders. Ms. Dudukovich explained that The Community Builders are a mission-driven, non-profit housing developer. The Community Builders have been active in western Pennsylvania, specifically East Liberty and McKees Rocks, since about 1995. Their roots go back to the 1960's. Ms. Dudukovich explained that The Community Builders were awarded a competitive grant as part of the federal stimulus funding program of approximately

\$11,000,000 to redevelop vacant and foreclosed properties. The neighborhood transformation is to include mixed use properties, multi-family housing and sustainable projects with an affordable housing component. They are looking at opportunities in the Wood Street corridor. Promotional information was distributed and Council was asked to review same.

Ms. Macklin commented that the areas which are being considered by The Community Builders are between Wood Street and Wallace Avenue and North Avenue and Hill Avenue and that the proposal is a great plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Wilson – Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services provided a report for the month of February. There was a total call volume of 261 with 200 patients being transported. Average response times for emergency calls were 7.7 minutes and average response time for non-emergency calls was 8.1 minutes. Average response times with lights and sirens were 8.4 minutes and non-emergencies, with no lights or sirens, were recorded at 11.7 minutes. No blood pressure screening clinics were held in the month of February. The next blood pressure screening clinic will be on March 25, 2011 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Wallace Ave. Soup Kitchen.

Harvey Bias – 705 Lamar Ave. – Expressed concern regarding the condition of the property at 512 Lytle Way. The property is located to the rear of his property and presents a public safety hazard to his family. Mr. Bias was asked to leave his contact information for President Moore to respond to his request at a later time.

Hazel Thomas – 613 Wallace Ave. – Commented that she is receiving parking tickets between 5:00 AM and 7:00 AM. She provided her contact information to President Moore.

Julia Washington – 508 North Ave. – Expressed concern regarding an abandoned building at Claudia and North Avenue and children playing near there. She stated that there is broken glass on the property and requested that it be secured.

Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave. – She commented on a notice she received to provide proof of refuse collection at the property she owns at 511 Pitt Street which is vacant and does not have plumbing.

Eric Egan – 853 Rebecca Ave. – Inquired as to whether recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan had been implemented. There are over 100 recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan and work is currently being performed on two of the recommendations, contracted fire protection services with the City and update of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Evans explained that with many of the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan, there are requisite first steps to those which must be addressed.

REPORT FROM MAYOR JOHN THOMPSON

Mayor Thompson reported:

- The Police Department received two vehicles from the DA's office which are being used by the Special Operations Unit.

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- The Department will be moving to standard issue firearms for all officers.
- Funding is being sought for bullet-proof vests.
- Megan's Law compliance checks were completed with assistance from the Attorney General's Office.
- The Citizens Police Academy is in their third week with and there are fifteen participants.
- Traffic enforcement is being conducted at several, alternating, locations in the Borough.
- Sixty arrests were made in the month of February.

Ms. Macklin requested that the Department conduct enforcement at Marlboro Avenue and Brinton Road down to Franklin Avenue as vehicles exceed the posted speed limit in that area. She also requested an update on the hiring process for police officers. Mayor Thompson referred her to Mr. Focareta who advised that Chief Coleman is reviewing the polygraph examination results and will make a recommendation as to who continues on in the process for background investigations.

President Moore recognized several University of Pittsburgh students in the audience and asked them to introduce themselves. The students explained that they are working on a school project in Wilkinsburg to evaluate a need and determine how to obtain funding to address the need.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Adult Library Report - President Moore reported:

- New computers will be arriving in April or May.
- The Library is again participating in "One Book One Community", Twenty Nine gifts by Cami Walker.
- The Library will be hosting a book discussion group beginning Wednesday, March 16, 2011 through April 6, 2011 from 7:00-8:00 PM. For more information and to register, please call 412-244-2940.
- The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra program, "Unlocking the Classics", will be held at the Eastridge Branch of the Wilkinsburg Library. Jim Cunningham of WQED is hosting the program. To reserve seats, please call 412-244-2940 or 412- 342-0056.
- The community clean up will take place on April 30, 2011 at various locations throughout the community.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Macklin reported:

- The Committee met last week
- The engineer reported on the different projects in process.
- Funding from the County's CDBG 37 program was very minimal and no monies were awarded for paving and very little for demolition.

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- Funding was received to perform an engineering study on improvements to the railroad trestles.
- The Committee is working on a five-year capital improvement plan with hopes to partially fund through a bond issue. Information is to be forthcoming from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Ms. Macklin requested that the Mayor provide information on the conditions in the Police Department offices in the basement. Ms. Macklin requested that Council members communicate their thoughts for this project to her.
- Ms. Macklin commented on support needed to assist homeowners in properties which are surrounded by abandoned structures and the difficulties they encounter in obtaining homeowner's insurance.
- The next meeting will be held March 23, 2011 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public.

Mr. Cohn questioned if the Space Allocation Study of the Municipal Building had been reviewed by the Committee.

Further discussion followed regarding suggestions and recommendations for capital planning.

Finance Committee – Mr. Cohn reported:

- The Committee met on February 16, 2011.
- The current priority is finalizing the agreement for contracted fire protection services with the City of Pittsburgh
- An IT services plan is being prepared as most of the current day-to-day IT functions are performed by the Fire Chief.
- The Pension Board will be meeting on April 1, 2011 and discussion will be held on the roles and responsibilities of the Board and possible restructuring.
- The importance of filling the positions for Code Enforcement Director and DPW Director was again stressed.
- The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2011 at 9:30 AM and an additional special meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2011 at 9:30 AM.
- The Committee will be focusing on the Emergency Plan recommendations in the Five-Year Plan and Financial Management Study as well as recommended fee increases.
- MSF bills will be mailed from TCVCOG

Personnel Committee – Ms. Trice reported:

- The Committee met on Wednesday February 9, 2011.
- One grievance was presented.
- Recommendations were decided for two appointments – one to the Planning Commission and the other to the Redevelopment Authority.
- Management employment agreements and standardized expiration dates were discussed as well as annual performance evaluations.

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- The Committee discussed implementing some of Dr. Dougherty's concepts and goals for the approved EIP.
- The TCVCOG held a dinner meeting on February 25, 2011 with Senator Brewster as the guest speaker.

Public Safety Committee Report – Mr. Lefebvre reported:

- The last meeting was cancelled due to an executive session.
- The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2011 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Mr. Lewis provided an update on WPJWA activities and the new website.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2862

Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2862 to provide for the execution of an intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the Borough of Wilkinsburg and the City of Pittsburgh to provide contracted fire protection services.

Moved: Ms. Evans

Seconded by: Mr. Cohn

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

Ordinance No. 2863

Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2863 amending the Wilkinsburg Firemen's Pension Plan to provide for the transfer of assets to the City of Pittsburgh to provide for the purchase of a service credit and to provide for the appointment of a retired firefighter to the Pension Board.

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Seconded by: Mr. Cohn

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

Authorizing the execution of the Conditional Agreement of Sale for 800 Wood Street.

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Following discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Macklin, second by Mr. Lewis, to table the motion to execute the Conditional Agreement of Sale for 800 Wood St.

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Moore

No: Mr. Cohn

Motion carried 8:1

Ms. Evans requested approval for the streetscape improvement program work to be performed through the WCDC with funding provided by the WCDC. The locations for the improvements are all on Borough property.

Moved: Mr. Cohn

Seconded by: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Trice, President Moore

Abstain: Ms. Evans

Motion carried 8:0 with 1 abstention

Ms. Evans announced a WCDC Youth and Education Initiative mini-grant scholarship fund of up to \$3,000 with the deadline the end of March. Information can be obtained on the WCDC website at www.wilkinsburgcdc.org.

Ms. Evans reported that she attended the CONNECT meeting and learned that Duquesne Light has a number of programs available through WATTS Choice Program for energy efficiency savings rebates, grants and other programs.

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Mr. Cohn, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Eugenia Moore, Council President